

"Off With Her Heels!"

"Too High and Most Improper," Declare the Reformers, and Now the Wearers of Dainty Shoes Are Wondering Whether to Defy the Proposed New Laws Against High Heels or Pay a Fine or Go to Jail.



The 2 1/2-inch heel which is condemned as being 1 1/4 inches too high.

HIGH heels must be sliced off! This is the edict contained in a bill proposed in practically every state legislature in the country and the reform gullotine stands ready to do the deheeling. The pussypoofers of the reformers can be easily heard in the corridors of every capitol from California to Maine, from the Great Lakes to the Gulf of Mexico. As the artist has pictured it on this page, it will soon be in order for Miss America to lay a silk-encased leg across a cushioned sawhorse and submit her skyscraper heels to the merciless enforcement of the mandate of a court of law.

"We don't want to be reformed," wailed the drinkers, public and private, when the man with the undertaker in, stovepipe hat, funeral garb and baggy umbrella suggested prohibition.

"We don't want our heels cut off," wailed the pretty girls and their equally girlish mothers, vainly seeking to hide them beneath the fashionably short skirt.

Propagandists Are at Work. But, as they said in the former case, the reformers say in the latter case:

"It is a bad habit. It is injurious, moreover. If you haven't intelligence and will power enough to reform your feet, reform your mind."

Well, they passed prohibition and the girls are beginning to worry now that the "heel" bills have been introduced in the legislatures of the states of Washington, Utah, Massachusetts and New York.

A propaganda, almost as general in scope as that spread by the exponents of dry-as-dust, is being disseminated. All sorts of dire things happen to the girl who approves the jacking up of her heels for the sake of making her foot appear smaller. Broken arches, nervous disorders, headaches—yes, even immorality—are bound to follow the use of high heels. At least, that's what the propaganda says.

Off with her heels! Under the proposed laws the maximum elevation will be one and one-half inches. Any heel higher will promptly be lopped off, even though they may be attached to shoes being worn to a gathering of the elite.

Nor is it a law that may be trifled with, according to its drastic terms. It has far more teeth than Mr. Volstead's statute in the matter of sentence. A woman found guilty—or a man, for that matter—of having in his or her possession a pair of the offending heels will be fined not less than \$25 nor more than \$500 and a second offense makes one liable to not less than 30 days nor more than one year's imprisonment.

However, in some of the states the bill has one extenuating feature. It won't go into effect before January 1, 1925. Which gives a breathing spell—a wearing spell, anyway. The sponsors of this reform legislation say that it will give ample opportunity to all the girls who wish to wear out their shoes in stock. A happy thought, for by so doing they'll no doubt wear down the heels to an attenuation within the law.

The rudest jolt to the wearers of the criticised heels took place right in

the state of Washington. The Washington State Osteopathic association condemned high heels as "immoral." Pressed for particulars, a representative of this association said:

"Immorality lies in the fact that all women who wear high-heeled shoes become deformed in the feet, knees and back, and are predisposed to tuberculosis. Race suicide is distinctly aided by high heels."

In Massachusetts the osteopaths succeeded in introducing a bill aimed against the dizzy heels. Dr. R. Kendrick Smith of Brookline, in asking concerted action on the matter, said that the wearing of high-heeled shoes "constituted a crime," although he didn't elucidate. But even if the solons in the Bay state succeed in putting over the bit of legislation it isn't going to bother one college that is situated within its confines, namely, Wellesley. The students there taboored high heels long ago.

An investigator, questioning Miss Margaret W. Haddock, president of the Student Government association, was answered with a demonstration. She assembled some of the students on the campus. Up went 276 shapely feet; up went 276 "other" feet. And not a shoe had a heel that was thicker than one and one-quarter inches! A quarter of an inch this side of the law!

From the artistic point of view the passage of the law against the wearing of the high heel would, if its enemies are truthful, be a good thing. The interesting X-ray photos on this page reveal how the high heel cramps the bones of the feet into deformity. It clearly shows the tarsal, the metatarsal and the phalanges bones pushed out of their natural places. And, even though, as the advocates insist, this condition does not cause backache, nervous disorder and other ills of the body, the displacement of the framework of the foot does affect its shape. And that should not be, for no less an authority than Nikolaus Schottenstein, wearer of the order of

The newly standardized 1 1/4-inch heel which is to be the limit if the proposed new laws go into effect.



The 2 1/2-inch heel which must be reduced by one inch to conform to the new requirements.

Franz Joseph for merit in art, says the American girl has the prettiest foot in the world. Says this artist: "The American girl has the most perfect feet in the world, and nowhere have I seen such feet, so well shaped, so gracefully used, so neatly and attractively shod."

But from what the exponents of the anti-high heel legislation say if high heels are worn much longer the American girl's feet will be as misshapen as those of the celestials.

Interesting, indeed, is the explanation given as to the various ways in which high heels cause injuries. The first one is merely a matter of balance. The shoeless foot supports the weight of the body at three points, under the big and little toes, on the so-called ball of the foot, and directly in the center of the heel. Faulty foot posture, caused by high heels, distributes this support disproportionately and the result, after a time, is the straining of the over-taxed muscles and tendons and the atrophy of those that are not called on to do their natural tasks. The result is the misshapen foot which causes, it is alleged, all sorts of bodily ills, and often brings about nervous disorders.

An expert has figured out just what tilting up the heels means. A heel three-quarters of an inch high lifts the foot enough to throw the body nine inches off its natural vertical line. This compels an outlay of 56 pounds of energy to straighten up

Remarkable X-ray photo of a woman's foot taken while she was wearing a high-heel shoe. Note the shoe nails where the heel of the shoe touches the ground.



Making an X-ray examination of the feet of a young woman wearing high-heeled shoes to determine what effect, if any, they have on the bones of the feet.

and walk the way nature intended, this expert says. Another result of high heels, they

assert, is a large ankle. "Beef to the heels" may be developed through the abuse of elevating one's heels. This

is caused by the swelling and twisting of the muscles and ligaments of the ankle as they are called on to

portunity to recompense themselves for the 49 days of abstinence ahead of them. The more so was this possible because the masquerades had preceded a pagan period of abstinence intended to promote the growth of the seed.

Fates Originate at Pyre.

The story goes that 32 centuries ago the warriors of what is now Rome, after winning a severe war, gathered at the tomb of Saturn, considered the father of his country, and a victim of the first invasion. There an oracle spoke, commanding that 30 human beings, enemies, be cremated on pyres, that there be dancing around these pyres, and that the ceremonies should end with vows of thanksgiving.

The heathens continued in this way year after year. But the burning of 30 human beings became so brutal in the eyes of Hercules that he ordered their replacement with 30 straw puppets.

So great are the powers of tradition and custom that the masks and lights have been brought down to us, and at the carnival in Rome this year 30 mannequins were cremated, although the ancient piety and aim have been lost.

From century to century the car-

nivals have been continued with unabated merriment, and with ever-increasing trappings. Under Julius II we have long accounts of bull hunts, or rather bull baits in the forum, with gorgeous descriptions of the magnificence of the dresses, and enormous suppers in the palace of the conservatore in the capital, where seven cardinals, together with the Duke Orazio Farnese, supped at one table, and all the ladies by themselves at another. After supper the whole party went into the courtyard of the palace, which was turned into the semblance of a theater, "to see a charming comedy admirably played," a comedy which lasted so long "that it was not over until 10 o'clock!"

Popes Restrict Carnival.

Later, the popes restricted the carnival to last six or seven days, although the municipal authorities of Rome allowed ten days. A decree of Paul II ordered the running of a great variety of races in honor of the occasion. Picturesque, indeed, were the contestants, even in those days. One race was to be run by Jews, one for Christian children, another by young men, another by hexagenarians; a fifth was to be for asses, and a sixth

perform new or more difficult tasks. J. Madison Taylor, A. B. M. D., in an article on "The Significance of Foot Troubles and Deformities," published in the New York Medical Journal, says:

"Women who have a right conception of the fitness of things, who appreciate their appearance, will think twice before acquiring a hobbling gait inevitable in one whose feet have become so ruined they are no longer capable of walking gracefully. In the young the foot is so plastic that it may be forced into a pinch-toed, high-heeled, small shoe. But this does not hold when age creeps on and approaching senility is precipitated by misshapen joints, bunions, corns, broken arches or ingrowing heels. The entire body is distorted and deformed through the effects of misshapen feet."

"A prominent orthopedist has shown (1) that women require corsets as a result of deformed feet, on account of the body being thrown out of plumb; this also produces a sunken chest, protruding stomach, backache, stooped shoulders, serious displacement and other confusions in the internal organs, among which are also diverse digestive impairments, bad breath, dead teeth and asthma."

Opinion of an Expert.

"To be sure, a few people are happily able to escape. Some are of such admirable conformation, have such tissue adaptability, poise, and symmetry. In short, possess such a splendid hereditary equipment, that they escape deformity. Few, however, can rely on such endowments, they do not have the groundwork. They are like those excellent ladies who aspire to be beauties and who purchase the clothes, corsets, shoes, hats and other fineries, such as they see worn by young models; they then fondly assume that it is only needed to wear the same habiliments in order to present a fascinating appearance."

"The present theme is the foot and its covering, which includes the stocking, which when too small parallels the shoe in deformability. Of course fashion is obedient and as reason for conduct is required by her votaries, only wishful thought impulses. Some impression might be made upon women in the selection of footwear if they could only be shown a future picture of themselves, after their youthful plasticity has faded and the evil days of bunion decrepitude come on. How is it that intelligent people can justify the almost universal custom of producing costume deformities? Upon what sophistries do they justify such amazing deceptions?"

"Let me appeal to any woman who fondly assumes that her feet are so exquisitely arched that she can only be comfortable in a French boot. Her physician has assured her that she must wear high heels or her back will ache. Of course there is not a word of truth in this except that the feet of women are higher arched than men. To be sure, she has worn this type of shoe so long that any other shoe will feel queer till she becomes accustomed to it. Meanwhile she is sorely trying the foundation for lameness, limping, and a waddling, slouching, shuffling gait."

for buffaloes. The expenses were to be paid for out of the papal exchequer.

A curious practice at this time was the contribution by the Jews of Rome of 1000 gold florins annually to help pay for the carnival. One thousand florins was the regular levy, but 30 were added as a special memorial to Judas and the 30 pieces of silver.

The world war came on, and Rome ceased to make merry. The appropriation for the carnival was used for succoring the wounded soldiers, while the country prayed even more fervently, during the period of Lent, for ultimate victory and peace.

North Carolina Cow Prolific.

RALEIGH, N. C., Feb. 6.—The record of a cow in Spartanburg county, South Carolina, of having borne two sets of twin calves in 1920, has been equaled if not beaten by a registered Jersey owned by Marion Richardson of Davis county, North Carolina, which in 11 months and three days gave birth to two sets of twin calves. The two sets of twin calves, all heifers, were born on February 27, 1920, and on January 26, 1921, respectively. On December 18, 1920, she gave birth to one heifer calf, making her record five calves within 21 months and 13 days.

PRE-LENTEN CARNIVAL REVIVED IN PARIS AFTER SIX YEARS' INACTIVITY DUE TO WAR

Typist Ascends Throne as Queen of Queens and All France Pays Homage in Unique Fete Which Originated With Pagans and Reflects Splendor as Prelude to Fasting.

WHEN the other day Mademoiselle Yvonne Beclu, a typist, ascended the throne at the Paris carnival at Mi-Careme, as queen of queens, she received the homage not only of the city, but of the entire country. Mademoiselle Beclu was elected from among 31 candidates representing every section of Paris, and while the whole proceeding was conducted with tumultuous enthusiasm, it had an air of due solemnity. The national government, the clergy, society and business men—all were interested in the selection of the most beautiful maiden of all Paris as their chief, for on her depended the success of the festivities in large measure.

For six long years carnivals were banished, not by order of the government, although the authorities would

never have permitted the useless expense attending the procession. The people, by universal consent, did not make merry because it was not in their hearts to do so. The specter of defeat was too near for merry-making and care-free rejoicing. This is the first year when the carnival took place in all their splendor, although there was a one day's celebration at each period last year.

Paris Carnivals Typical.

The carnivals of Paris, recurring every year, except for the interruption of the war, are only typical of many in other communities, rigidly observed in happy abandon to relieve the solemnity and abstinence of Lent. Led by the queen, a motley company of citizens marches through the streets and throngs the public places. So old is the festival that in ancient

days slaves were permitted to wear the badge of freedom on this occasion and partook of a banquet attired in the clothes of their masters.

Carnivals are the spring festivals supreme. Technically, carnival is a shortened form of carne vale, and signifies "farewell to the flesh," or farewell to the old year. Withstanding its present connection with Christian observance, the carnival is of pagan origin. It originally came from a heathen ritual, and had taken such a hold on the populace before the Christian era that even the church of Rome could not outlaw it, changing it into a Christian observance.

Although Rome was at first a bit skeptical of the effect of these gorgeous processions, it soon found room for this festival in the scheme of the church, as it offered converts an op-